CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

A method of automatically selecting document templates, comprising the steps of:
 presenting a document image from an account;
 matching the document image against a series of known check templates from

the account; and

producing confidence scores corresponding to the degree of similarity of the document image compared to each document template.

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- 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of matching the confidence scores with a predetermined high similarity threshold.
- 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of positively identifying the document image if a confidence score is above the predetermined high similarity threshold.
 - 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of matching the confidence score with a predetermined low similarity threshold.
- 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of creating a new document template for the account corresponding to the document image if the confidence score is below the predetermined low similarity threshold.

- 6. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of applying a partial layout comparison to the image and the closest matching template if the confidence score is above the low similarity threshold.
- 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of providing results of the partial layout comparison including a list of image parts and a corresponding confidence score for each image part.
- 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of creating one or more exclusion

 20 zones corresponding to image parts that exhibit a low confidence score.
 - 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the document is a check.

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10. A method of automatically selecting check templates, comprising the steps of: presenting a check image from an account;

matching the check image against a series of known check templates from the account;

producing confidence scores corresponding to the degree of similarity of the check image compared to each check template;

matching the confidence scores with a predetermined high similarity threshold and a predetermined low similarity threshold.

- 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of positively identifying the check image if a confidence score is above the predetermined high similarity threshold.
- The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of creating a new check template
 for the account corresponding to the check image if the confidence score is below the predetermined low similarity threshold.
 - 13. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of applying a partial layout comparison to the image and the closest matching template if the confidence score is above the low similarity threshold and below the predetermined high similarity threshold.

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- 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of providing results of the partial layout comparison including a list of image parts and a corresponding confidence score for each image part.
- 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of creating one or more exclusion zones corresponding to image parts that exhibit a low confidence score.
- 16. A computer program for automatically selecting document templates, comprising:

 machine readable instructions for matching a document image against a

 series of known document templates;

machine readable instructions for producing confidence scores corresponding to the degree of similarity of the document image compared to each document template; and

machine readable instructions for matching the confidence scores with a predetermined high similarity threshold and a predetermined low similarity threshold.

- 17. The computer program of claim 16, further comprising machine readable instructions for positively identifying the document image if a confidence score is above the predetermined high similarity threshold.
- 18. The computer program of claim 16, further comprising machine readable instructions for creating a new document template corresponding to the document image if the confidence score is below the predetermined low similarity threshold.
- 19. The computer program of claim 16, further comprising machine readable instructions for applying a partial layout comparison to the document image and the closest matching document template if the confidence score is above the low similarity threshold and below the high similarity threshold.

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- 20. The computer program of claim 19, further comprising machine readable instructions for providing results of the partial layout comparison including a list of image parts and a corresponding confidence score for each image part.
- 5 21. The computer program of claim 20, further comprising machine readable instructions for creating one or more exclusion zones corresponding to image parts that exhibit a low confidence score.
 - 22. The computer program of claim 16, wherein the document is a check.